

## Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05  
OES-07 OMB-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 HEW-04 AID-05 /072 W  
-----036932 200532Z /62

R 181603Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8057

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 4715

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR, CO  
SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: STATE 112719

1. I AM SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY MY APPARENT FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO WITH THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM AS IS EVIDENT WITH THE READING OF REFTEL. I WAS EARLY CONVINCED THAT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT OBSTACLE TO AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM WAS THE INADEQUATE LAW ENFORCEMENT INFRA-STRUCTURE IN COLOMBIA. THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS, BOTH HISTORIC AND POLITICAL, FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND SOME OF THEM WERE OUTLINED IN BOGOTA'S A-19, 2735 AND 3025. IN THE FY-79 NCAP (1977 BOGOTA 11580), WHICH WAS SUBMITTED SHORTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL, I OUTLINED THE INITIATIVES THE MISSION WOULD UNDERTAKE, ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO CLASSIC INSTITUTION BUILDING. IN BOGOTA 4157 THE MISSION POINTED OUT IN SOME DETAIL ITS COMMITMENT TO THE BUILDING OF AN EFFECTIVE AG NARCOTICS UNIT. SEVERAL MESSAGES HAVE BEEN DRAFTED WHICH DETAILED OUR INTEREST IN OBTAINING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY IN INTERDICTION. THIS WAS AS MUCH POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AS IT WAS TO INCREASE AVAILABLE FIRE POWER.

2. AFTER A LONG, HARD, OFTEN FRUSTRATING STRUGGLE, WE NOW HAVE  
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SOME NASCENT INSTITUTIONS. THE AG NARCOTICS UNIT IS BEGINNING TO FUNCTION, WITNESS THE 675 TON MARIJUANA SEIZURE. WE ACTUALLY HAVE A COAST GUARD THAT WILL PUT OUT TO SEA, THE MILITARY IS ANXIOUS TO TEAR UP CLANDESTINE AIR STIRPS AND TO ENGAGE IN AN ERADICATION PROGRAM. NEW INSTITUTIONS, HOWEVER, ARE FRAGILE BEASTIES AT BEST. THEY MUST BE NURTURED, BROUGHT ALONG AND GIVEN OBJECTIVES THAT ARE WELL WITHIN THEIR CAPABILITIES. THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SENSE OF MISSION AND OF AN ESPIRIT ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE. THE AG AND I DECIDED EARLY ON THAT WE NEEDED TWO OR THREE SPECTACULAR OPERATIONS PRIOR TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THIS WOULD INSURE NOT ONLY SURVIVABILITY, BUT ALSO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIT TO THE POINT THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL SEE ITS CONTINUATION AND STRENGTHENING IN ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS. IT WOULD ALSO SERVE TO INCUCLATE DOUBT IN THE TRAFFICKERS AND CONFIDENCE IN THE COLOMBIAN POSITION. MULTI-HUNDRED TON SEIZURES OF MARIJUANA ARE VERY CONDUCIVE TO GETTING THAT MESSAGE ACROSS. THEY ARE ALSO EASY TO FIND.

3. FURTHER, WE SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A FALSE MARIJUANA-COCAINE DICHOTOMY. THE PROGRAM IS NOT CONDUCTED IN A VACUUM WHERE CONTROL EFFORTS CAN BE NEATLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO SUBSTANCES. THE GOAL IS AN EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED PROGRAM THAT MEETS BOTH USG AND GOC NEEDS AND PRIORITIES. TO THE GOC, MARIJUANA POSES A MUCH GREATER AND HIGHLY VISIBLE DANGER IN TERMS OF THE FINANCIAL POWER OF THE MAFIAS, THE DECAY OF THE TRADITIONAL SOCIETY AND THE SUBVERSION OF THE PREVAILING LEGAL AND GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE VIRTUAL STATE OF ANARCHY IN THE GUAJIRA INsofar AS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IS CONCERNED IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO MARIJUANA RATHER THAN COCAINE.

4. IN SUM, WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN INSTITUTION BUILDING. AS PART OF THIS EXERCISE, WE BELIEVED IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO LAY ON SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECTACULARS. TIME CONSTRAINTS LEAD US TO SEEK THE EASIEST COURSE TO ACHIEVE THIS. WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON SOME COCAINE CASES AND WITH A LITTLE LUCK IN THE NEAR FUTURE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING INTERESTING IN THIS FIELD ALSO.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 112719  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** SNAR, CO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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